

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 HA-05
H-01 INR-10 INRE-00 IO-13 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
/069 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR/HFO
APPROVED BY AF:LWALKER
EUR/NE-MR. WOODS (SUBST.)
EUR/WE- . DOBBINS (SUBST.)
-----016911 170117Z /62 S
O 170041Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN COUP TRIAL: IMPENDING EXECUTIONS

REF: KINSHASA 2565

1. SUBSEQUENT TO DISPATCH REFTTEL, EMBASSY KINSHASA HAS BEEN INFORMED BY GOZ THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS ORDERED EXECUTION OF 11 OF THE CONVICTED MORNING, MARCH 17, HOUR UNSPECIFIED.
 2. DEPARTMENT HAS CALLED IN ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR KASONGO AS FOLLOWS: WE ARE INFORMED PER PARA 1 ABOVE. WITHOUT CALLING INTO QUESTION ZAIRIAN JUDICIAL PROCEDURES OR VERDICTS RETURNED BY ZAIRIAN COURT, WE HOPE THAT GOZ WILL
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HAVE GIVEN SUFFICIENT CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLE ADVERSE PUBLIC, MEDIA AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTION WHICH MIGHT BE ENGENDERED BY PRECIPITATE EXECUTION OF THE SENTENCES. WE BRING THIS URGENTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION TO INSURE THAT GOZ WILL HAVE TAKEN ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE ACTING.

3. EMBASSIES PARIS AND BRUSSELS SHOULD DRAW ON REFTEL AS NECESSARY FOR FACTS OF CASE AND CONVEY FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY TO HOST GOVERNMENTS: USGIS WILLING, IF GOF AND GOB AGREE, TO JOIN TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE TO GOZ, AT LEVELS AND IN CHANNELS TO BE AGREED BY OUR AMBASSADORS IN KINSHASA, WHICH WOULD EXPRESS HOPE THAT DUE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THESE CASES, AND THAT POSSIBILITY OF ADVERSE PUBLIC REPERCUSSIONS IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN GIVEN DUE WEIGHT.

4. SHOULD GOF AND GOB AGREE TO SUCH DEMARCHE, WE WOULD HOPE THEY INSTRUCT THEIR AMBASSADORS DIRECTLY, GIVEN EVIDENT TIME CONSTRAINTS.

5. EMBASSY KINSHASA SHOULD CONVEY GIST OF FOREGOING TO FRENCH AND BELGIAN AMBASSADORS AND REQUEST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN SECURING PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR CAPITALS.

6. FYI: DEPARTMENT IS NOT SANGUINE EITHER THAT MOBUTU WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SUCH DEMARCHE OR, INDEED, THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO GAIN FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARTICIPATION THEREIN. BELIEVE APPROACH BY USG OR GOB, SINGLY OR JOINTLY, WOULD RISK SIMPLY CONFIRMING MOBUTU'S DETERMINATION, AS REPORTED BY AMBASSADOR CUTLER, TO PROCEED WITH THE EXECUTIONS. HOWEVER, TRIPARTITE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROACH INCLUDING FRENCH MIGHT DO THE TRICK. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, TRIALS, EXECUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE068526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LDJUNIOR/HFO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780118-0280
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780354/aaaabtir.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2f8417c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 2565
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3289224
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRIAN COUP TRIAL: IMPENDING EXECUTIONS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CG, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: PARIS BRUSSELS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f8417c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014